The Memorandum:

An Ode to The Workplace or

Something Like That

Short Stories & Poetry About the Workplace

by Kewayne Wadley

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For Friends & Family

I love and adore you; may this find you in the best of health. In this very short collection, it's important to note that these topics are purely a work of fiction.

This is a figment of my own imagination, none of the situations, people, names, or things mentioned here are real. In the way that they are brought up as well as discussed it may seem like they are real, but I assure you that they are not. While this is not the intent it should be noted that some of the content could be seen as lewd, rude, or generally offensive or objectionable, maybe controversial. Some of you reading may have even come across some of these events yourself or like events, I sincerely hope that you haven't, but continuing forward is considered a further agreement of accountability. Although presented as fiction some of these topics present a serious subject & should be discussed and improved upon as mental health should be a top priority in our day-to-day voyage. It's hard to admit that at times, we are taken

advantage of & at times it feels that there isn't anything that we can do, no matter what or how hard we try, even while seeking help we are sometimes laughed at, mocked or even worse, intimated or threatened. Sometimes discrimination becomes a key factor if not the main driver in the form of retaliation, whether friends, family or at the workplace.

While you flip through the pages of this book, it is also important to note that you are not alone, and by any means should you or anyone have to face any of the mentioned context.

If you feel that no one is listening to you and you feel like giving up, please keep going. Do not stop until you've exhausted all your resources. Life is meant to be enjoyed, no one should ever be taken advantage of.

Keep going brother and or sister!

You're almost at the finish line

Special thanks

Derek Perry, Ericka Hughes, Miriam, Jeremy Allen, Brian Travers, Cammry Lapka, Alice Branch, & Donna Ballard Carter

In Loving Memory

Erik Mann

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First Thing's First

It's obvious that working here

isn't your first choice.

It's written all over your face.

Same for me when I started

Years ago.

I sort of fell into it

When I was younger.

Looking for a job, and sick of the situation I had at the time.

A friend I knew worked here &

It didn't seem too bad.

When I first started, I enjoyed every bit of the physical aspect

But still, I had a goal in mind,

you have to have one of those to make things a little easier.

It'll definitely help you deal

with the volume of work and people

Who see your light & want to

Diminish it

All the time juggling someone looking
over you like you're five years old,
But has the audacity to throw a temper tantrum when
you're the one that must correct them.

While you work here, it's good to have
Something going on the side, maybe
Finish your education if you haven't
Started already.

If I were in your shoes I would.
You have the whole world
Ahead of you.
Nothing they ever say or do can take that away from you

WELCO

One Way Ticket

New hire coming straight

in from orientation.

You begin to learn the tools

Of the trade when you

Actually begin the job.

If you're lucky you'll meet

A friend or two.

You're blessed if you can

Find someone that'll actually

Train you to do the job right.

Through experience it's not

What you know, but who

you know.

But that too,

Only takes you so far

Front of the Class

We all took a class

To help improve our Customer

Service skills.

The highlights of a class held on Zoom.

Non-human contact practiced

By humans who can't be themselves

in a now

technology based

world.

Some of us listened,

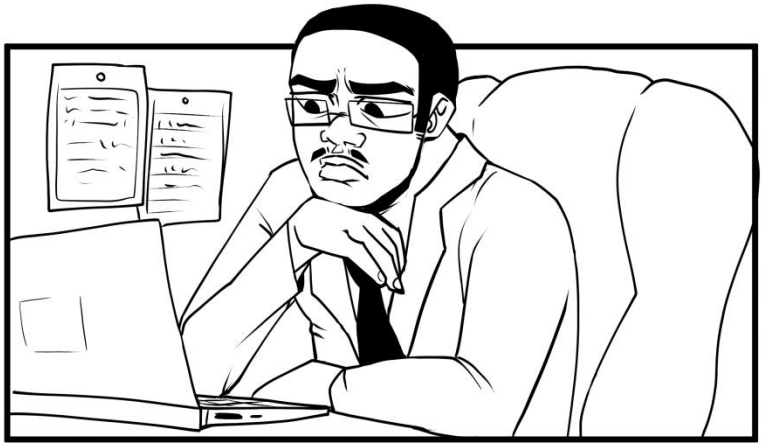
The difference between delegating

& allocating.

Along the lines of taking notes

Some of us were made examples

I should have called in



I Think the Thermostat is Broken

Michelle hears a commotion outside

Her office.

Before she could stand up good, her boss Bridgette

Bursts through the door and ignores

Michelle when she asks her what's going on.

Her boss Bridgette is as fake as they come.

She is one of those bosses you often hear about

But story changes when you start to work for them.

When Michelle first started working for Bridgette

She was as nice as she wanted to be.

Michelle could come in late if she wanted to,

She would buy Michelle lunch, even breakfast.

When Bridgette started training Denise all of that

Went out the window.

Now Michelle has to wear a heavy jacket when she comes

In the office

Few Weeks' Time

I printed out my report

And began to check inventory.

I came across so many mistakes

Before I inherited this area.

I attempted to talk to my boss

& let him know about my discovery,

Seeing that it was his area to begin with.

More than four years he had been over

This area.

I thought he'd be glad to hear

That everything was coming together.

Especially within a few weeks' time

He avoided the phone call,

All three of them.

Over the span of seventeen pages

Everything wasn't as bad as it seemed,

Today.

I didn’t have to stay late & could actually

Get a lunch.

I looked down to see that I've gotten a call

From Michelle. I called her back with the thought

That something was wrong.

When she picked up

She stated that everything was alright.

But told me that the same boss

That I was attempting to get in touch with

Was looking for me &

That I was in trouble for being late to a meeting

Chain of Command

Write him up for not being able

To follow basic instructions.

Write him up because I intentionally told him

To do wrong & he figured it out and did

Right.

Write him up because he made me look

Bad in front of my peers.

My peers who already have preconceived

Notions about me & what he said & did, did not help

Make matters any better, in my case.

He is supposed to listen

Based off my title

Alone, not once was he supposed to

Think for himself

I do not care if it is not ethical

Or what the company mandates.

Regardless if I am going to take the credit

Regardless of how good it makes me look.

Either you write him up for insubordination

Or I write you up

4 Minutes Late

Terrance arrives to work Monday at 6:04am.

He walks past Junita who is 30 minutes

Late every morning.

Most times she is hanging out in the break room

Or outside in the warehouse on the phone.

His start time is 6:00am sharp,

So is Junita's.

Most days he stays an hour late

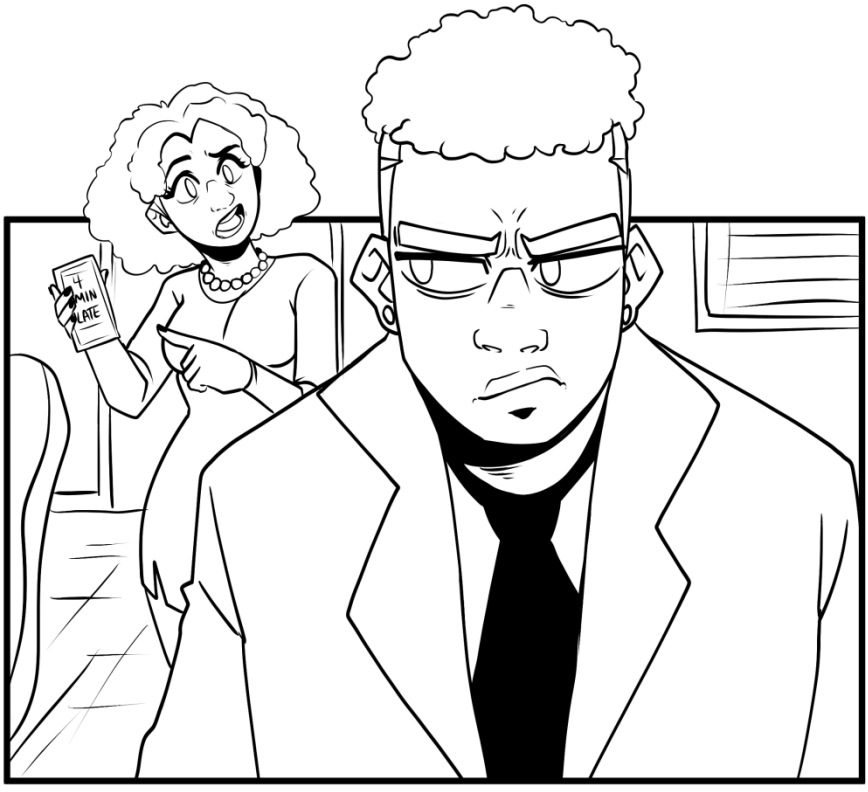
Cleaning up the mess in his department.

Unorganized papers, replying to emails.

Junita whispers to Terrence

"I hear that you're going to be written up if you're late

again."


4
MIN
LATE

Email Etiquette

Michelle needed to reply to an email from a timekeeper.

She'd sent the information to Denice for review

With the hope that she'd respond.

That was Tuesday. It is now Wednesday of the week after.

To Michelle's surprise she received an email from Stephanie

Stating that not only has she not had a reply to the previous

Email but it's past due as the employee has moved to the new

Department before schedule.

Michelle gritted her teeth as it took everything in her

Not to tell Stephanie where she could take herself.

She attempted to reach back out to Denice but no reply.

Just before she could look down to hang the phone up

Stephanie shot another email.

This one more arrogant than the first.

Michelle let her fingers fly before she knew it.

She stayed within the confines of company policy

But returned the same energy that could be seen from the aggressor.

Stephanie did not hesitate to reply, Michelle's phone ringing

Immediately as the next email popped up on her screen,

A focused hello answered "Hey girl, I didn't mean any harm but

These folks are working my nerves! By the way I mistook your last reply"

Michelle's cheeks turned red letting out a tough but much needed laugh

Replying "Girl tells me about it! This department is about to be the

Death of me. I've been reaching out to Denice ever since you sent

The first email but she won't reply or pick up the phone."

Stephanie laughed and replied that sounds like my team.

The girls had a good chat until they were interrupted by Denice's

Reply in a side bar email,

Explaining to her that the language she used in her email

Was unprofessional and shouldn't be used when

Exchanging dialog with inter departmental personnel

Both Michelle & Stephanie almost drop their respect phones

Unfavorable Action

Never mind who's been here the longest.

If something goes wrong, we'll blame it on the system, after all it's supposed to generate everything automatically, correct!? If anything should go wrong then I'll appoint one of you over this

to modify the time sheets and make

this all go away.

We'll call everyone to make it look legit & get the people we want. If anyone questions our authority then we'll threaten to get them up out of here

If that doesn't work, we'll listen to their concerns like a good management team and just not get back to them.

Is everyone here in accordance?

"Sir, I am not one to go against the grain, but don't you think that this would be too noticeable?"

"Stealing time!? I am not trying to get fired for making a little extra money. I think we can all agree on that. Not to mention I myself would be skipped."

The manager pauses with a dumbfounded look before he replies

"Well, if it'll ease your mind De'Andre, you can come in and work at your leisure, in fact all of my bosses at this facility can do so. With the exception of Bridgette."

He looks in Bridgette's direction, feeling the heat from her glare burning a hole in the side of his head.

"If you were to be here without probable cause, HR would be all over us. We'll have to come up with another plan for you Bridgette."

To further ease everyone's mind including you, De'Andre.

To recap if anyone questions our authority

We'll either threaten to get them out the door, & if that doesn't work, we'll listen to their concerns like a good management team and just not get back to them.

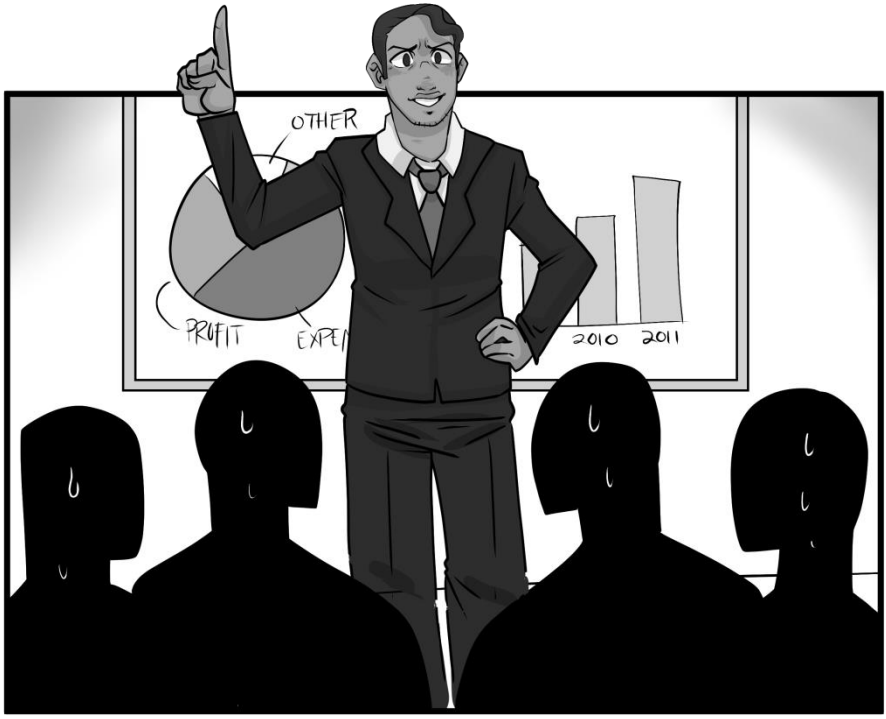
We'll tell them that it'll take some time you know "with the system being all wacky."

And never get back with them.

That sounds like a problem our well capable IT department should fix.

Well if there is nothing else,

Meeting adjourned.


OTHER
PROFIT
2010
2011

Fly on the Wall

The boss walks in

Papers shuffle, phone notifications

Try their best to silence.

The time now is 10:57am.

He talks to the clerk about the climate

Of work culture.

There's not enough training,

Not enough bodies filling the spaces.

She replies in agreement

Passing her work off to him.

Soon he realizes.

Phone notifications continue to go off.

A sip of coffee is taken.

The time now is 11:01 am.

He hands in his resignation

In search of a new department.

I am but a fly on the wall

Searching for a way out

Last Night's Game

Marquis saw the boss coming

& quickly turned and walked the other way.

He's been employed with the company for over

20 years but doesn't get the respect he deserves.

He cuts the corner and bumps into Michael

He tells Michael that he needs a report run.

Michael blows him off and instead sits there

And does nothing.

Marquis mentions to Michael that he would have done it himself

but the boss wants him to do it.

Michael continues to sit there and does nothing, ignoring Marquis.

The boss finds Marquis and grills him about the report.

He tells him that he should have known better and the fact

That he's been there for so long is no excuse.

Michael sees the confrontation and instead of

Accepting responsibility, he instead snickers & interrupts the boss

With a YouTube video about last night's ball game.

The boss obliges

Marquis' anxiety raises

Good Benefits

In the morning

I woke up, got dressed

& Made my way to work.

Didn't get a chance to make

My morning coffee.

Didn't get a chance to kiss

My baby goodbye,

Got stuck in traffic.

Working these long hours

I barely get to enjoy home.

If I could do it all over

I'd have stayed in school.

But still have to find a way

to provide.

At least with my schooling,

I'd have something they

couldn't take from me.

Any old day this old job

Could shut down,

Even worse cut me loose,

No more long hours.

No more good benefits

Bear-ly Working

A bear walked into a job interview.

Soon as everyone saw him, everyone freaked out

But not without first taking a minute

to register what

they just saw.

He wore a red tie with black swirls,

a silver watch, & a pair of black thin

glasses.

to the interviewers surprise he was on time

as well as the next up to be interviewed.

when the bear walked in

the interviewer

looked him up and down and asked him

for his credentials.

to which the bear handed him his resume.

he'd attended college, graduated with honors

he left his last job because he was looking for something better.

"just looking for a way to provide for my family, sir."

He replied after taking a seat.

the interviewer looked him up and down again,

at first stating that he was over qualified for the position

he was applying for, adjusting himself in his seat moving the bear's resume to the side.

the interviewer, crossed one of his legs over the other

quickly glancing at the clock.

PRIVATE
HANG IN
RESU

The bear recognized this behavior &

quickly stood up to leave

the interviewer jumped, struggling to cough.

He grabbed the edge of his chair handle

twisting quickly to the right to look out the window

then back at the bear when he saw that the bear was simply

just standing up.

He straightened his tie and waved for the next entrant

To come in, Attempting to play it off

At the door the other candid's had crept back in

watching the bear in case anything would happen.

Some had their phones out recording, others had their

nose up in the air.

Soon as everyone saw him, everyone freaked out

the bear recognized this behavior &

quickly stood up to leave

but not before someone had the chance

to call the police

Resignation

I find myself losing.

I've found myself losing

Begging for the bare

Minimum.

You don't look at me

The way that I look at you.

Justifying value with

The price tag of time.

Weighing more bad than

Good.

I feel embarrassed

Embroidered by the smirk

Of those around.

Systems set in place

To justify value.

I find myself losing

Begging for the bare

Minimum.

Ambitious in toxicity.

I loved coming here,

I loved doing the things

I was trained to do.

Somewhere in the middle

We've lost that same ambition.

Jumping from stability

To lack of trust.

Truth is I've lost you a long time

Ago.

I've lost this feel-good feeling

& When I tell you.

You rant and rave menial

Threats out of fear that I'll

Leave.

In truth, I've mentally left.

My body soon follows

FROM THE AUTHOR

Thank you for your support in reading my third book. If you enjoyed this and you believe it can be a benefit or inspiration to others, an honest review on Amazon (or wherever book retailer you purchased this from) would be greatly appreciated to spread the word about this book.

If you would like to keep in touch with me on social media, below are my Instagram, Facebook, and Poem Hunter handles. I'll be looking forward to connecting with you.

Instagram handle: @PoeticBlues1

Facebook: @Romero Amour

Poem Hunter: @Kewayne Wadley

Thank you for your support!

Warmest thoughts,

Kewayne Wadley

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kewayne Wadley (1987-Present) is a Memphis-based poetic storyteller whose mission is to spread love and inspiration through the power of words. Breathing his first human breath in Connecticut, he wound up spending most of his childhood days in the Deep South and much farther south: Central America. Distinctly amorous lines infused with sultry overtones, Kewayne's poetry paints vivid pictures of whirlwind romances and loves as unshaken as placid lakes. The unwavering support of his loved ones, especially his grandmother is what drives him the most. His innate ability to see life through an unconventional lens can be witnessed in his innovative approach to his craft.

Throughout his writing career, Kewayne's poems have been featured in an array of anthologies and zines, including but not limited to Collected Whispers (2006), For This Cause Writers Unite (2012), The Poetic Bond IX (2019), Porter Gulch Review: 36th Edition (2020), and Who's Who in American Poetry (2021). He also was recently crowned the 3rd Place

Winner for his haiku “Full of Posies” (Dreamers Magazine, 2022) and received Honorable Mention for “Love Sometimes” (The Poetic Bond X). His most recent accomplishment would include Volume 2 of the Listening to Songs at Midnight series "More Songs to Listen to at Midnight (2022)."